



## Early Journal Content on JSTOR, Free to Anyone in the World

This article is one of nearly 500,000 scholarly works digitized and made freely available to everyone in the world by JSTOR.

Known as the Early Journal Content, this set of works include research articles, news, letters, and other writings published in more than 200 of the oldest leading academic journals. The works date from the mid-seventeenth to the early twentieth centuries.

We encourage people to read and share the Early Journal Content openly and to tell others that this resource exists. People may post this content online or redistribute in any way for non-commercial purposes.

Read more about Early Journal Content at <http://about.jstor.org/participate-jstor/individuals/early-journal-content>.

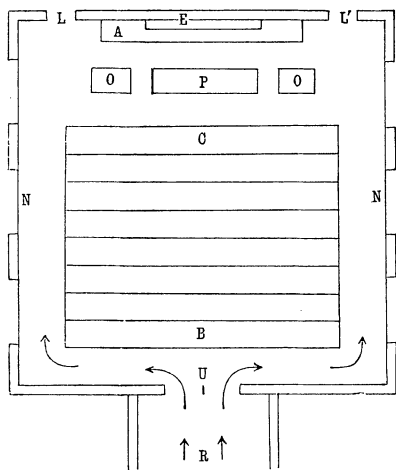
JSTOR is a digital library of academic journals, books, and primary source objects. JSTOR helps people discover, use, and build upon a wide range of content through a powerful research and teaching platform, and preserves this content for future generations. JSTOR is part of ITHAKA, a not-for-profit organization that also includes Ithaka S+R and Portico. For more information about JSTOR, please contact [support@jstor.org](mailto:support@jstor.org).

### The Laboratory at Strassburg.

[We are permitted to make the following extracts from a private letter of Dr. Howard Ayres, regarding DeBary's laboratory.—EDS.]

\* \* \* Last July I was in Strassburg to hear DeBary and Oscar Schmidt. The former I heard in his "Allgemeine Botanik Montag bis Freitag, 9-10 v. M., Botanisches Institut." \* \* \* Perhaps a description of DeBary's manner, methods of his laboratory (so far as I saw it) and other details connected with the teaching of botany in Strassburg, may not be uninteresting to you. The new Botanical Institute is a four-story white stone building, situated on the new grounds set apart for the university building, botanical gardens, astronomical observatory, physiological institute, etc., outside the older portion of the city, but within the new fortifications, which are immense earthen embankments. There is a basement for various uses, a ground floor for various others, among which you notice lecture rooms, a second story for general and private laboratories, special library, professors' and assistants' offices or rooms, as you wish to call them.

It is 9 A. M. Wednesday morning, as I find myself passing through the large hall towards the double-door, above which is to be seen a porcelain slab bearing the inscription "Hörsaal." On entering there is a passage to right and left behind the last row of seats which are arranged in tiers. On the op-

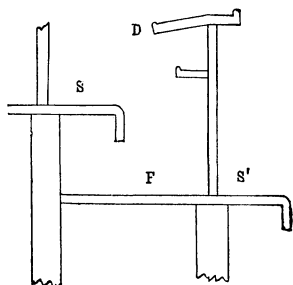


Plan of Lecture Room: R, main entrance; U, double doors; B-C, seats for 500; N-N, large side windows; O-O, desks with drawers; P, Professor's desk; A, table; E, calcium light apparatus; L, L, entrance to Professor's dwelling.

posite side of the room is the lecturer's desk, tables, blackboards, calcium light apparatus, etc., and, on each side of his desk, doors which lead into his private rooms—his dwelling—for the professor lives in his "Institute," after the new mode. A diagram of the room may serve a purpose. The seats are plain, straight-backed pine benches, each extending entirely across the room.

To start again: You enter the room, hang up your hat on one of the conveniently placed hooks, take a seat, arrange your "Pandekten" if you take notes, and punctually at 9.15 door L opens and in comes Herr Prof. Dr. DeBary. He bows, "hems" and begins his lecture on Marsiliaceæ. The wall on each side of the blackboard is hung with excellent colored plates, which a normal eye can make use of across the great room! On the table D are seen various glasses of water, pots of plants etc. The professor picks up a green mass and proceeds to divide it into small portions, speaking rapidly the while; each portion finds a separate plate as a resting place; this done, the lecturer opens one of the numerous drawers in O, and takes out lecture (herbarium) specimens, mounted on card and some protected behind a sheet of glass to which the card is pasted. An assistant hands plates and cards to the first and second row of students, and from here on the specimens serve a significant purpose not hard to divine.

Most of the students bring into class some text-book such as Sachs or Prantl, read and consult figures as the professor talks and sketches or explains his wall cards. Finishing *Marsilia*, *Isoetes* is next taken up, and before the three-quarters of an hour is up he has begun on the Mosses. As a rule the lecture is begun by a short (five minutes) recapitulation of the previous lecture, a most excellent practice for the student. The lecture over, another bow, and the professor disappears through door L. The students are out into the hall without loss of time, some going to another lecture, others up to the general laboratory on the floor above.



Section of Seats: S, S, seats;  
F, floor; D, desk.

On entering the laboratory you find Dr. DeBary there, surrounded by three or four assistants, giving directions for this and that. The professor has a working room—that is, his private laboratory—on this floor. The laboratory rooms are all well lighted, supplied with apparatus of the kind needed by students, and are conveniently near a store-room, containing cases of drawers and shelves with glassware, herbarium and fresh material, reagents and laboratory supplies. In short they are ideal work and study rooms of the present day of botanical science. They were made for that purpose and no other, and since expense was no item in their preparation, and since they were made after the plans of

those who knew what they wanted, the rooms could not but be perfectly fitted up. I think, without doubt, that Strassburg has the best botanical institute in Europe. At present Heidelberg is very well provided, but can not compare with Strassburg.

During the first semester, that is, the winter semester, DeBary usually lectures to his classes in the smaller lecture room, in the second story, near the main entrance to the building. The smaller lecture room is used by the associate professors for their lecture work. In the summer semester, when the classes are too large to get into the small room, the large lecture room is used. DeBary gives courses of lectures on some topic of general interest (e. g. Bacteria) very frequently, and in such cases the lectures are public and largely attended by medical men and those of scientific proclivities. These are, of course, given in the large hall, which never fails to be crowded, hearers finding seats on the steps in the aisles. In all his lectures DeBary uses charts to illustrate, as well as blackboard.

A very common course for students to pursue in their botanical work is to take lectures of DeBary and repetitorium of the Privat Dozenten, thus impressing the more important points more clearly on their minds.

The courses offered in Botany for the winter semester of '83-'84 were: *DeBary*, (1) Anatomy and physiology of the vegetative organs of plants; (2) Thallophytes (Algæ and Fungi); (3) Botanical colloquium; (4) Laboratory courses, to be arranged upon consultation. Prof. extraordinarius *E. Zacharias*, (1) Physiology of reproduction; (2) Geographical distribution of plants. Privat Dozent *Wortmann*, Physiology of assimilation in plants.

In winter semester of '84-'85, *DeBary*, (1) Anatomy and physiology of plants; (2) Bacteria; (3) Botanical colloquium; (4) Work in laboratory. *Zacharias*, (1) Thallophytes; (2) Useful and commercial plants. *Wortmann*, Repetitorium of the whole of Botany for pharmacy and medical students.

Prof. DeBary is the Dean of the Faculty of Mathematics and Natural Sciences of Strassburg University and Curator of the Botanical Institute and Gardens. His department is, perhaps, the strongest in sciences in the University.